

Land Reclamation, Toxic Discharge Control

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - practice code 455



DEFINITION

Toxic Discharge Control is reducing acid or otherwise toxic aqueous discharge from abandoned mines or mine waste.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

This practice is used in areas that have been mined where acid or toxic drainage is degrading the natural resources.

The purposes of controlling toxic discharge from these sites are to:

- Improve water quality
- Improve fish and wildlife habitat
- Eliminate unsightly residues and odors
- Reduce erosion by improving vegetation potential
- Restore the area to a beneficial use

Four primary methods of toxic discharge control are:

- Mine sealing - Reducing water entry into the mine
- Infiltration control - Drainage and sealing the surface
- Daylighting - Surface mining coal seams and treating the disturbed areas to reduce toxic discharge
- Neutralizing - Treating discharge water with alkaline material, or other appropriate chemicals

Detailed descriptions of the above are included in the NRCS national practice standard.

Additional information including design criteria and specifications are in the local NRCS Field Office Technical Guide.